

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5924

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 843

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, CIECC, MX

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ECHEVERRIA'S INAUGURAL SPEECH AT
CIECC MEETING

REF: MEXICO 813

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

1. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH, REPORTED REFTEL,
RECEIVED HEAVY COVERAGE IN JANUARY 28 MORNING PRESS ACCENT-
ING HIS CRITICISM OF OAS. MEDIA REACTION WAS GENERALLY
SUPPORTIVE.

2. REACTION TO THE SPEECH BY SOME OF THOSE ATTENDING
THE MEETING WAS MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF MEXICAN
PRESS. CONSENSUS SEEMED TO BE THAT SPEECH WAS EXTREMELY
HOSTILE (TOWARD OAS) AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE FORUM.
POLISH AMBASSADOR (WHO ATTENDED SESSION AS OBSERVER)
CONSIDERED IT A "REVOLUTIONARY SPEECH". FROM HIS POINT OF
VIEW, OF COURSE, THIS IS ALL TO THE GOOD AND HE SEES ECHEVERRIA
AS A "RESPONSIBLE" REVOLUTIONARY. ECUADORIAN AMBASSADOR
CONSIDERED SPEECH HOSTILE AND, MOREOVER, DISCOURTEOUS
TO GALO PLAZA. HE COMMENTED THAT ECHEVERRIA MADE NO
COURTEOUS GESTURE TOWARD GALO PLAZA NOR POLITE COMMENT ON
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GALO PLAZA'S STEWARDSHIP IN OAS, NOW COMING TO AN END.

NOR DID HE MENTION THE DEATH OF FORMER OAS SEC GEN JOSE MORA.
(GALO PLAZA DID REFER TO MORA IN HIS REMARKS.) JAMAICAN
AMBASSADOR SIMILARLY COMMENTED THAT ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH
WAS AGGRESSIVE AND HOSTILE, AND HE THOUGHT THAT EVEN THE
MEXICAN LISTENERS WERE SHOCKED.

3. COMMENT: AS REFLECTED IN REFTEL, EMBASSY FOUND
WORDS AND TONE OF ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH CRITICAL AND
AGGRESSIVE BUT, IN EFFECT, LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM
PREVIOUS SPEECHES MADE AT TLATELOLCO CONFERENCE LAST YEAR
AND OTHER PLATFORMS. JOVA

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

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